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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

International Patent Application  
No. PCT/EP00/03575

PCT/DO/EO/US

International Filing Date: 19 April 2000

Attorney Docket: GRAS3003/JEK

Applicant: Thomas GRASSL

For: CIRCUIT SUITABLE FOR VERTICAL INTEGRATION AND METHOD OF  
PRODUCING SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies documents to establish the U.S. national stage processing of the above-identified international patent application. No amendments to the claims were filed under Article 19 and the original filed claims were substituted by amended claims 1 - 10 submitted April 25, 2001 pursuant to Article 34 (International Preliminary Examination).

Claims 1 - 10 filed April 25, 2001 will be examined and it is desired to amend these claims prior to examination to reduce the filing fees, to correct improper multiple dependent claims and to conform the claim language to U.S. practice. It is respectfully submitted that none of the amendments narrow any of the elements of the original claims.

**AMENDMENT**IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 - 10 as shown on the appended APPENDIX OF CLAIMS, which includes amended and non-amended claims. Also appended hereto an APPENDIX OF MARKED UP CLAIMS showing the all of the revisions to the claims made by the present amendment.